



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 653**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 475

*Senate, April 16, 2026*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4b-52 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2026*):

4 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this  
5 section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the  
6 state of one million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations  
7 or additions to a building rented or occupied by (A) the Judicial Branch,  
8 three million dollars or less, or (B) a constituent unit of the state system  
9 of higher education, three million dollars or less, shall be made to any  
10 state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department,  
11 institution, board, commission or council of the state government and  
12 no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be  
13 entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of  
14 Administrative Services, except repairs, alterations or additions to a  
15 building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on  
16 Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs,  
17 alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The  
18 University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are

19 made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative  
20 Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by  
21 the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered  
22 projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
23 subsection, repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the  
24 state of [five hundred thousand] three million dollars or less may be  
25 made to any state building or premises under the supervision of the  
26 Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state  
27 system of higher education, under the terms of section 4b-11, and any  
28 contract for any such construction, repairs or alteration may be entered  
29 into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit  
30 of the state system of higher education without the approval of the  
31 Commissioner of Administrative Services.

32 Sec. 2. Section 4b-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

34 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) be responsible  
35 for the administrative functions of construction and planning of all  
36 capital improvements undertaken by the state, except (A) highway and  
37 bridge construction, the construction and planning of capital  
38 improvements related to mass transit, marine and aviation  
39 transportation, (B) the Connecticut Marketing Authority, (C) planning  
40 and construction of capital improvements to the State Capitol building  
41 or the Legislative Office Building and related facilities by the Joint  
42 Committee on Legislative Management, (D) any project as defined in  
43 subdivision (16) of section 10a-109c, undertaken by The University of  
44 Connecticut, and (E) construction and planning of capital  
45 improvements related to the Judicial Department if such construction  
46 and planning do not [constitute a project within the meaning of  
47 subdivision (6) of section 4b-55] involve an expenditure of more than  
48 three million dollars, including the preparation of preliminary plans,  
49 estimates of cost, development of designs, working plans and  
50 specifications, award of contracts and supervision and inspection. For  
51 the purposes of this subparagraph (E), the term "Judicial Department"  
52 does not include the courts of probate, the Division of Criminal Justice

53 and the Public Defender Services Commission, except where such  
54 agencies share facilities in state-maintained courts; (2) select consultant  
55 firms in accordance with the provisions of sections 4b-56 to 4b-59,  
56 inclusive, to assist in the development of plans and specifications when  
57 in the commissioner's judgment such assistance is desirable; (3) render  
58 technical advice and service to all state agencies in the preparation and  
59 correlation of plans for necessary improvement of their physical plants;  
60 and (4) cooperate with those charged with fiscal programming and  
61 budget formulation in the development of a capital program and a  
62 capital budget for the state.

63 Sec. 3. Section 4-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

65 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 859 and except as  
66 provided in [subsection (b)] subsections (b) and (c) of this section, any  
67 unclaimed article of jewelry or any accumulation of such articles or  
68 valuables in the custody of the administrative head of any state  
69 institution shall be retained by such administrative head for a period of  
70 three years, during which period he shall make every reasonable effort  
71 to return each such article to its owner. At the end of said period such  
72 administrative head may sell or otherwise dispose of such article with  
73 the approval of the governing board of such institution. Any revenue  
74 derived from the sale of any such articles shall be credited to the  
75 "institutional general welfare fund" of the institution in which they were  
76 found and, if from any institution not having such a fund, shall be paid  
77 to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund of the state.

78 (b) The Commissioner of Correction shall adopt regulations in  
79 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to set forth the manner in  
80 which the department shall sell or otherwise dispose of any unclaimed  
81 inmate property, clothing or jewelry after reasonable efforts have been  
82 made to return the same to the rightful owner. All proceeds from any  
83 such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the  
84 Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

85 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall establish a procedure to set

86 forth the manner in which the Judicial Branch shall sell or otherwise  
87 dispose of any unclaimed clothing, jewelry or other personal property  
88 of a detainee after reasonable efforts have been made to return such  
89 clothing, jewelry or personal property to the detainee. All proceeds from  
90 any such sale shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the  
91 Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established by section 54-215.

92 Sec. 4. Subsection (h) of section 46b-15f of the general statutes is  
93 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
94 *2026*):

95 (h) For each year that funding is provided for the program under this  
96 section, the organization administering the program shall either  
97 conduct, or partner with an academic institution or other qualified  
98 entity for the purpose of conducting, an analysis of the impact of the  
99 program, including, but not limited to, (1) the procedural outcomes for  
100 applications filed in association with services provided by grant  
101 recipients under the program, (2) the types and extent of legal services  
102 provided to individuals served pursuant to the program, including on  
103 matters ancillary to the restraining order application, and (3) the  
104 number of cases where legal services were provided before an  
105 application was filed but legal representation did not continue during  
106 the restraining order process and the reasons for such limited  
107 representations. Not later than [July first] September thirtieth of the year  
108 following any year in which the program received funding, the  
109 organization administering the program shall submit a report on the  
110 results of such analysis in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
111 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
112 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. [Not later than December  
113 1, 2023, the organization administering the program shall submit a  
114 report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint  
115 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
116 matters relating to the judiciary on the potential state-wide expansion of  
117 the program. Such report shall include, but not be limited to: (A)  
118 Whether there are or could be a sufficient number of grant recipients to  
119 administer the program in each applicable courthouse in the state; (B)

120 which, if any, courthouse in the state is not a feasible location for  
121 expansion of the program; and (C) the level of funding needed to fund  
122 a state-wide expansion of the program.]

123 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 46b-38c of the general statutes is  
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
125 *2026*):

126 (c) Each such local family violence intervention unit shall: (1) Accept  
127 referrals of family violence cases from a judge or prosecutor, (2) prepare  
128 written or oral reports on each case for the court by the next court date  
129 to be presented at any time during the court session on that date, (3)  
130 provide or arrange for services to victims and offenders, (4) administer  
131 contracts to carry out such services, and (5) establish centralized  
132 reporting procedures. All information provided to a family relations  
133 counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services  
134 supervisor employed by the [Judicial Department] Court Support  
135 Services Division of the Judicial Branch in a local family violence  
136 intervention unit shall be used solely for the purposes of preparation of  
137 the report and the protective order forms for each case and  
138 recommendation of services and shall otherwise be confidential and  
139 retained in the files of such unit and not be subject to subpoena or other  
140 court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose,  
141 except that a family relations counselor, family relations counselor  
142 trainee or family services supervisor employed by the [Judicial  
143 Department] Court Support Services Division:

144 (A) Shall disclose to the court and the prosecuting authority for  
145 appropriate action information that the victim has indicated that the  
146 defendant holds a permit to carry a pistol or revolver, possesses one or  
147 more firearms or possesses ammunition;

148 (B) Shall disclose to an employee of the Department of Children and  
149 Families: [information] (i) Information that indicates that a defendant  
150 poses a danger or threat to a child or a custodial parent of the child; and  
151 (ii) information about the progress and compliance with court-ordered  
152 intervention and services when there are open cases within both the

153 family violence intervention unit and the Department of Children and  
154 Families, which information shall be used for the sole purpose of child  
155 protection services and shall not be used in any other court proceeding  
156 unless otherwise authorized by law;

157 (C) May disclose to another [family relations counselor, family  
158 relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor information  
159 pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Chief Court Administrator]  
160 employee of the Court Support Services Division, as authorized by the  
161 executive director or designee of such division, all files and reports  
162 regarding the defendant for purposes of: (i) Determining whether to  
163 recommend pretrial release; (ii) preparing a presentence investigation  
164 report or a pre-dispositional study; (iii) determining the supervision,  
165 both pretrial and post-conviction, and service needs of a child or youth  
166 or any other person referred to such division; and (iv) monitoring and  
167 enforcing conditions of release or probation;

168 [(D) May disclose to a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and  
169 referral specialist employed by the Judicial Department information  
170 regarding a defendant who is on or is being considered for pretrial  
171 release;]

172 [(E)] (D) May disclose to a law enforcement agency information that  
173 indicates that a defendant poses a danger or threat to another person;

174 [(F) May disclose, after disposition of a family violence case, to a  
175 probation officer or a juvenile probation officer, for purposes of  
176 determining service needs and supervision levels, information  
177 regarding a defendant who has been convicted and sentenced to a  
178 period of probation in the family violence case;

179 (G) May disclose, after a conviction in a family violence case, to a  
180 probation officer for the purpose of preparing a presentence  
181 investigation report, any information regarding the defendant that has  
182 been provided to the family relations counselor, family relations  
183 counselor trainee or family services supervisor in the case or in any  
184 other case that resulted in the conviction of the defendant;]

185        [(H)] (E) May disclose to any organization under contract with the  
186 Judicial Department to provide family violence programs and services,  
187 for the purpose of determining program and service needs, information  
188 regarding any defendant who is a client of such organization, provided  
189 no information that personally identifies the victim may be disclosed to  
190 such organization; and

191        [(I)] (F) Shall disclose such information as may be necessary to fulfill  
192 such counselor's, trainee's or supervisor's duty as a mandated reporter  
193 under section 17a-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

194        Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 46b-122 of the general statutes is  
195 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
196 *2026*):

197        (c) Any judge hearing a juvenile matter, in which a child is alleged to  
198 be uncared for, neglected, abused or dependent or in which a child is  
199 the subject of a petition for termination of parental rights, may permit  
200 any person whom the court finds has a legitimate interest in the hearing  
201 or the work of the court to attend such hearing. Such person may include  
202 a party, foster parent, relative related to the child by [blood or marriage]  
203 blood, marriage or law, service provider or any person or representative  
204 of any agency, entity or association, including a representative of the  
205 news media. The court may, for the child's safety and protection and for  
206 good cause shown, prohibit any person or representative of any agency,  
207 entity or association, including a representative of the news media, who  
208 is present in court from further disclosing any information that would  
209 identify the child, the custodian or caretaker of the child or the members  
210 of the child's family involved in the hearing.

211        Sec. 7. Section 46b-129 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
212 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
213 *1, 2026*):

214        (a) Any selectman, town manager, or town, city or borough welfare  
215 department, any probation officer, or the Commissioner of Social  
216 Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families or any child-

217 caring institution or agency approved by the Commissioner of Children  
218 and Families, a child or such child's representative or attorney or a foster  
219 parent of a child, having information that a child or youth is neglected,  
220 uncared for or abused may file with the Superior Court that has venue  
221 over such matter a verified petition plainly stating such facts as bring  
222 the child or youth within the jurisdiction of the court as neglected,  
223 uncared for or abused within the meaning of section 46b-120, the name,  
224 date of birth, sex and residence of the child or youth, the name and  
225 residence of such child's parents or guardian, and praying for  
226 appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this  
227 chapter. Upon the filing of such a petition, except as otherwise provided  
228 in subsection (k) of section 17a-112, the court shall cause a summons to  
229 be issued requiring the parent or parents or the guardian of the child or  
230 youth to appear in court at the time and place named, which summons  
231 shall be served not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing  
232 in the manner prescribed by section 46b-128, and the court shall further  
233 give notice to the petitioner and to the Commissioner of Children and  
234 Families of the time and place when the petition is to be heard not less  
235 than fourteen days prior to the hearing in question.

236 (b) If it appears from the specific allegations of the petition and other  
237 verified affirmations of fact accompanying the petition and application,  
238 or subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to believe that (1)  
239 the child or youth is suffering from serious physical illness or serious  
240 physical injury or is in immediate physical danger from the child's or  
241 youth's surroundings, and (2) as a result of said conditions, the child's  
242 or youth's safety is endangered and immediate removal from such  
243 surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's or youth's safety, the  
244 court shall either (A) issue an order to the parents or other person  
245 having responsibility for the care of the child or youth to appear at such  
246 time as the court may designate to determine whether the court should  
247 vest the child's or youth's temporary care and custody in a person  
248 related to the child or youth by [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or  
249 law or in some other person or suitable agency pending disposition of  
250 the petition, or (B) issue an order ex parte vesting the child's or youth's  
251 temporary care and custody in a person related to the child or youth by

252 [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law or in some other person or  
253 suitable agency. A preliminary hearing on any ex parte custody order  
254 or order to appear issued by the court shall be held not later than ten  
255 days after the issuance of such order. The service of such orders may be  
256 made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, or by any  
257 probation officer appointed in accordance with section 46b-123,  
258 investigator from the Department of Administrative Services, state or  
259 local police officer or indifferent person. Such orders shall include a  
260 conspicuous notice to the respondent written in clear and simple  
261 language containing at least the following information: (i) That the order  
262 contains allegations that conditions in the home have endangered the  
263 safety and welfare of the child or youth; (ii) that a hearing will be held  
264 on the date on the form; (iii) that the hearing is the opportunity to  
265 present the parents' position concerning the alleged facts; (iv) that an  
266 attorney will be appointed for parents who cannot afford an attorney;  
267 (v) that such parents may apply for a court-appointed attorney by going  
268 in person to the court address on the form and are advised to go as soon  
269 as possible in order for the attorney to prepare for the hearing; (vi) that  
270 such parents, or a person having responsibility for the care and custody  
271 of the child or youth, may request the Commissioner of Children and  
272 Families to investigate placing the child or youth with a person related  
273 to the child or youth by [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law who  
274 might serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary custodian for such  
275 child or youth. The commissioner shall investigate any relative or  
276 relatives proposed to serve as a licensed foster parent or temporary  
277 custodian for such child or youth prior to the preliminary hearing and  
278 provide a preliminary report to the court at such hearing as to such  
279 relative's or relatives' suitability and any potential barriers to licensing  
280 such relative or relatives as a foster parent or parents or granting  
281 temporary custody of such child or youth to such relative or relatives;  
282 and (vii) that if such parents have any questions concerning the case or  
283 appointment of counsel, any such parent is advised to go to the court or  
284 call the clerk's office at the court as soon as possible. Upon application  
285 for appointed counsel, the court shall promptly determine eligibility  
286 and, if the respondent is eligible, promptly appoint counsel. The

287 expense for any temporary care and custody shall be paid by the town  
288 in which such child or youth is at the time residing, and such town shall  
289 be reimbursed for such expense by the town found liable for the child's  
290 or youth's support, except that where a state agency has filed a petition  
291 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the agency  
292 shall pay such expense. The agency shall give primary consideration to  
293 placing the child or youth in the town where such child or youth resides.  
294 The agency shall file in writing with the clerk of the court the reasons  
295 for placing the child or youth in a particular placement outside the town  
296 where the child or youth resides. Upon issuance of an ex parte order,  
297 the court shall provide to the commissioner and the parent or guardian  
298 specific steps necessary for each to take to address the ex parte order for  
299 the parent or guardian to retain or regain custody of the child or youth.  
300 Upon the issuance of such order, or not later than sixty days after the  
301 issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether  
302 the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to  
303 keep the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the  
304 issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such  
305 reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the  
306 child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health  
307 and safety. Any person or agency in which the temporary care and  
308 custody of a child or youth is vested under this section shall have the  
309 following rights and duties regarding the child or youth: (I) The  
310 obligation of care and control; (II) the authority to make decisions  
311 regarding emergency medical, psychological, psychiatric or surgical  
312 treatment; and (III) such other rights and duties that the court having  
313 jurisdiction may order.

314 (c) The preliminary hearing on the order of temporary custody or  
315 order to appear or the first hearing on a petition filed pursuant to  
316 subsection (a) of this section shall be held in order for the court to:

317 (1) Advise the parent or guardian of the allegations contained in all  
318 petitions and applications that are the subject of the hearing and the  
319 parent's or guardian's right to counsel pursuant to subsection (b) of  
320 section 46b-135;

321 (2) Ensure that an attorney, and where appropriate, a separate  
322 guardian ad litem has been appointed to represent the child or youth in  
323 accordance with subsection (b) of section 51-296a and sections 46b-129a  
324 and 46b-136;

325 (3) Upon request, appoint an attorney to represent the respondent  
326 when the respondent is unable to afford representation, in accordance  
327 with subsection (b) of section 51-296a;

328 (4) Advise the parent or guardian of the right to a hearing on the  
329 petitions and applications, to be held not later than ten days after the  
330 date of the preliminary hearing if the hearing is pursuant to an order of  
331 temporary custody or an order to show cause;

332 (5) Accept a plea regarding the truth of the allegations;

333 (6) Make any interim orders, including visitation orders, that the  
334 court determines are in the best interests of the child or youth. The court,  
335 after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, shall order specific steps the  
336 commissioner and the parent or guardian shall take for the parent or  
337 guardian to regain or to retain custody of the child or youth;

338 (7) Take steps to determine the identity of the alleged genetic parent  
339 of the child or youth, including, if necessary, inquiring of the birth  
340 parent of the child or youth, under oath, as to the identity and address  
341 of any person who might be the genetic parent of the child or youth and  
342 ordering genetic testing, and order service of the petition and notice of  
343 the hearing date, if any, to be made upon such alleged genetic parent;

344 (8) If the person named as the alleged genetic parent appears and  
345 admits that such person is the genetic parent, provide such person and  
346 the birth parent with the notices that comply with section 17b-27 and  
347 provide them with the opportunity to sign an acknowledgment of  
348 parentage on forms [that comply with section 17b-27. Such documents  
349 shall be executed and filed in accordance with chapter 815y and a copy  
350 delivered to the clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters. The clerk  
351 of the superior court for juvenile matters shall send the original

352 acknowledgment of parentage to the Department of Public Health for  
353 filing in the parentage registry maintained under section 19a-42a, and  
354 shall maintain a copy of the acknowledgment of parentage in the court  
355 file] prescribed by the Department of Public Health;

356 (9) If the person named as an alleged genetic parent appears and  
357 denies that such person is the genetic parent of the child or youth, order  
358 genetic testing to determine parentage in accordance with the  
359 Connecticut Parentage Act. The clerk of the court shall send a certified  
360 copy of any judgment adjudicating parentage to the Department of  
361 Public Health for filing in the parentage registry maintained under  
362 section 19a-42a. If the results of the genetic tests indicate that the person  
363 named as the alleged genetic parent is not the genetic parent of the child  
364 or youth, the court shall enter a judgment that such person is not the  
365 genetic parent and the court shall remove such person from the case and  
366 afford such person no further standing in the case or in any subsequent  
367 proceeding regarding the child or youth;

368 (10) Identify any person or persons related to the child or youth by  
369 blood, marriage or law residing in this state who might serve as licensed  
370 foster parents or temporary custodians and order the Commissioner of  
371 Children and Families to investigate and report to the court, not later  
372 than thirty days after the preliminary hearing, the appropriateness of  
373 placing the child or youth with such relative or relatives; and

374 (11) In accordance with the provisions of the Interstate Compact on  
375 the Placement of Children pursuant to section 17a-175, identify any  
376 person or persons related to the child or youth by blood, marriage or  
377 law residing out of state who might serve as licensed foster parents or  
378 temporary custodians, and order the Commissioner of Children and  
379 Families to investigate and determine, within a reasonable time, the  
380 appropriateness of placing the child or youth with such relative or  
381 relatives.

382 (d) (1) (A) If not later than thirty days after the preliminary hearing,  
383 or within a reasonable time when a relative resides out of state, the  
384 Commissioner of Children and Families determines that there is not a

385 suitable person related to the child or youth by [blood or marriage]  
386 blood, marriage or law who can be licensed as a foster parent or serve  
387 as a temporary custodian, and the court has not granted temporary  
388 custody to a person related to the child or youth by [blood or marriage]  
389 blood, marriage or law, any person related to the child or youth by  
390 [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law may file, not later than  
391 ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing, a motion to  
392 intervene for the limited purpose of moving for temporary custody of  
393 such child or youth. If a motion to intervene is timely filed, the court  
394 shall grant such motion except for good cause shown.

395 (B) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to  
396 intervene for purposes of seeking temporary custody of a child or youth  
397 more than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The  
398 granting of such motion shall be solely in the court's discretion, except  
399 that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown whenever  
400 the child's or youth's most recent placement has been disrupted or is  
401 about to be disrupted.

402 (C) A relative shall appear in person, with or without counsel, and  
403 shall not be entitled to court appointed counsel or the assignment of  
404 counsel by the office of Chief Public Defender, except as provided in  
405 section 46b-136.

406 (2) Upon the granting of intervenor status to such relative of the child  
407 or youth, the court shall issue an order directing the Commissioner of  
408 Children and Families to conduct an assessment of such relative and to  
409 file a written report with the court not later than forty days after such  
410 order, unless such relative resides out of state, in which case the  
411 assessment shall be ordered and requested in accordance with the  
412 provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children,  
413 pursuant to section 17a-175. The court may also request such relative to  
414 release such relative's medical records, including any psychiatric or  
415 psychological records and may order such relative to submit to a  
416 physical or mental examination. The expenses incurred for such  
417 physical or mental examination shall be paid as costs of commitment are

418 paid. Upon receipt of the assessment, the court shall schedule a hearing  
419 on such relative's motion for temporary custody not later than fifteen  
420 days after the receipt of the assessment. If the Commissioner of Children  
421 and Families, the child's or youth's attorney or guardian ad litem, or the  
422 parent or guardian objects to the vesting of temporary custody in such  
423 relative, the agency or person objecting at such hearing shall be required  
424 to prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that granting  
425 temporary custody of the child or youth to such relative would not be  
426 in the best interests of such child or youth.

427 (3) If the court grants such relative temporary custody during the  
428 period of such temporary custody, such relative shall be subject to  
429 orders of the court, including, but not limited to, providing for the care  
430 and supervision of such child or youth and cooperating with the  
431 Commissioner of Children and Families in the implementation of  
432 treatment and permanency plans and services for such child or youth.  
433 The court may, on motion of any party or the court's own motion, after  
434 notice and a hearing, terminate such relative's intervenor status if such  
435 relative's participation in the case is no longer warranted or necessary.

436 (4) Any person related to a child or youth may file a motion to  
437 intervene for purposes of seeking guardianship of a child or youth more  
438 than ninety days after the date of the preliminary hearing. The granting  
439 of such motion to intervene shall be solely in the court's discretion,  
440 except that such motion shall be granted absent good cause shown  
441 whenever the child's or youth's most recent placement has been  
442 disrupted or is about to be disrupted. The court may, in the court's  
443 discretion, order the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct  
444 an assessment of such relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this  
445 subdivision.

446 (5) Any relative granted intervenor status pursuant to this subsection  
447 shall not be entitled to court-appointed counsel or representation by  
448 Division of Public Defender Services assigned counsel, except as  
449 provided in section 46b-136.

450 (e) If any parent or guardian fails, after service of such order, to

451 appear at the preliminary hearing, the court may enter or sustain an  
452 order of temporary custody.

453 (f) Upon request, or upon its own motion, the court shall schedule a  
454 hearing on the order for temporary custody or the order to appear to be  
455 held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing.  
456 Such hearing shall be held on consecutive days except for compelling  
457 circumstances or at the request of the parent or guardian.

458 (g) At a contested hearing on the order for temporary custody or  
459 order to appear, credible hearsay evidence regarding statements of the  
460 child or youth made to a mandated reporter or to a parent may be  
461 offered by the parties and admitted by the court upon a finding that the  
462 statement is reliable and trustworthy and that admission of such  
463 statement is reasonably necessary. A signed statement executed by a  
464 mandated reporter under oath may be admitted by the court without  
465 the need for the mandated reporter to appear and testify unless called  
466 by a respondent or the child, provided the statement: (1) Was provided  
467 at the preliminary hearing and promptly upon request to any counsel  
468 appearing after the preliminary hearing; (2) reasonably describes the  
469 qualifications of the reporter and the nature of his contact with the child;  
470 and (3) contains only the direct observations of the reporter, and  
471 statements made to the reporter that would be admissible if the reporter  
472 were to testify to them in court and any opinions reasonably based  
473 thereupon. If a respondent or the child gives notice at the preliminary  
474 hearing that he intends to cross-examine the reporter, the person filing  
475 the petition shall make the reporter available for such examination at  
476 the contested hearing.

477 (h) If any parent or guardian fails, after due notice of the hearing  
478 scheduled pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and without good  
479 cause, to appear at the scheduled date for a contested hearing on the  
480 order of temporary custody or order to appear, the court may enter or  
481 sustain an order of temporary custody.

482 (i) When a petition is filed in said court for the commitment of a child  
483 or youth, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall make a

484 thorough investigation of the case and shall cause to be made a  
485 thorough physical and mental examination of the child or youth if  
486 requested by the court. The court after hearing may also order a  
487 thorough physical or mental examination, or both, of a parent or  
488 guardian whose competency or ability to care for a child or youth before  
489 the court is at issue. The expenses incurred in making such physical and  
490 mental examinations shall be paid as costs of commitment are paid.

491 (j) (1) For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (k) of this  
492 section, (A) "permanent legal guardianship" means a permanent  
493 guardianship, as defined in section 45a-604, (B) "caregiver" means (i) a  
494 fictive kin caregiver, as defined in section 17a-114, who is caring for a  
495 child, (ii) a relative caregiver, as defined in section 17a-126, who is caring  
496 for a child, or (iii) a person who is licensed or approved to provide foster  
497 care pursuant to section 17a-114, who is caring for a child, and (C) "trial  
498 home visit" means the temporary placement of a child or youth  
499 committed to the Commissioner of Children and Families in the home  
500 of such child's or youth's parent or guardian.

501 (2) Upon finding and adjudging that any child or youth is uncared  
502 for, neglected or abused the court may (A) commit such child or youth  
503 to the Commissioner of Children and Families, and such commitment  
504 shall remain in effect until further order of the court, except that such  
505 commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time  
506 by the court; (B) vest such child's or youth's legal guardianship in any  
507 private or public agency that is permitted by law to care for neglected,  
508 uncared for or abused children or youths or with any other person or  
509 persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the  
510 court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth  
511 by [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law; (C) vest such child's or  
512 youth's permanent legal guardianship in any person or persons found  
513 to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including,  
514 but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by [blood or  
515 marriage] blood, marriage or law in accordance with the requirements  
516 set forth in subdivision (6) of this subsection; or (D) place the child or  
517 youth in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective

518 supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to  
519 conditions established by the court. Upon issuing any order pursuant to  
520 this section, the court shall order specific steps that the parent must take  
521 to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent  
522 or to maintain the child or youth in the parent's custody while under an  
523 order of protective supervision.

524 (3) If the court approves a permanency plan filed with the court that  
525 recommends the reunification of the child or youth with such child's or  
526 youth's parent or guardian, the Commissioner of Children and Families  
527 may, with the agreement of all parties of record, authorize a trial home  
528 visit prior to the revocation of the order of commitment pertaining to  
529 such child or youth. The commissioner shall (A) provide the court and  
530 all parties of record written notice of the commissioner's intent to  
531 authorize any such trial home visit not later than fifteen days prior to  
532 such authorization; (B) create a trial home visit plan that shall be  
533 provided to all parties of record, and include, but need not be limited to,  
534 announced and unannounced visits to the home by the department and  
535 the provision of any services during such trial home visit that the  
536 commissioner determines are necessary to promote the child's or  
537 youth's well-being; and (C) file a motion for revocation of commitment  
538 not later than thirty days after the date such trial home visit commences,  
539 unless the commissioner removes the child or youth from the home  
540 prior to that time pursuant to its responsibility and authority over  
541 children and youth committed to the care and custody of the  
542 commissioner. A trial home visit authorized under this section shall  
543 remain in effect until the commissioner removes such child or youth  
544 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision or the court grants a  
545 motion for revocation of commitment filed pursuant to said  
546 subparagraph.

547 (4) If the court determines that the commitment should be revoked  
548 and the child's or youth's legal guardianship or permanent legal  
549 guardianship should vest in someone other than the respondent parent,  
550 parents or former guardian, or if parental rights are terminated at any  
551 time, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that an award of legal

552 guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation to, or  
553 adoption upon termination of parental rights by, any caregiver or  
554 person or who is, pursuant to an order of the court, the temporary  
555 custodian of the child or youth at the time of the revocation or  
556 termination, shall be in the best interests of the child or youth and that  
557 such caregiver is a suitable and worthy person to assume legal  
558 guardianship or permanent legal guardianship upon revocation or to  
559 adopt such child or youth upon termination of parental rights. The  
560 presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence that  
561 an award of legal guardianship or permanent legal guardianship to, or  
562 an adoption by, such caregiver would not be in the child's or youth's  
563 best interests and such caregiver is not a suitable and worthy person.  
564 [The court shall order specific steps that the parent must take to facilitate  
565 the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent.]

566 (5) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for  
567 the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not  
568 reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has been  
569 legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of  
570 such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual  
571 shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth  
572 has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth  
573 in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical education and  
574 career school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until  
575 such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until  
576 another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may  
577 place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable  
578 foster home or in the home of a fictive kin caregiver, relative caregiver,  
579 or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any  
580 accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without  
581 the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except  
582 for good cause and unless the parent or guardian of such child are  
583 notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be  
584 heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the  
585 commissioner. When placing such child or youth, the commissioner  
586 shall provide written notification of the placement, including the name,

587 address and other relevant contact information relating to the  
588 placement, to any attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to represent  
589 the child or youth pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The  
590 commissioner shall provide written notification to such attorney or  
591 guardian ad litem of any change in placement of such child or youth,  
592 including a hospitalization or respite placement, and if the child or  
593 youth absconds from care. The commissioner shall provide such written  
594 notification not later than ten business days prior to the date of change  
595 of placement in a nonemergency situation, or not later than two business  
596 days following the date of a change of placement in an emergency  
597 situation. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if  
598 possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious  
599 faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or  
600 may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home  
601 conforms to the standards of the commissioner and the commissioner  
602 shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. At  
603 least ten days prior to transferring a child or youth to a second or  
604 subsequent placement, the commissioner shall give written notice to  
605 such child or youth and such child's or youth's attorney of said  
606 commissioner's intention to make such transfer, unless an emergency or  
607 risk to such child's or youth's well-being necessitates the immediate  
608 transfer of such child or youth and renders such notice impossible.  
609 Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the  
610 commissioner, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such  
611 order, the court shall determine whether the department made  
612 reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parent or  
613 guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not  
614 made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into  
615 consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's  
616 or youth's health and safety.

617 (6) (A) A youth who is committed to the commissioner pursuant to  
618 this subsection and has reached eighteen years of age may remain in the  
619 care of the commissioner, by consent of the youth and provided the  
620 youth has not reached the age of twenty-one years of age, if the youth is  
621 (i) enrolled in a full-time approved secondary education program or an

622 approved program leading to an equivalent credential; (ii) enrolled full  
623 time in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational  
624 education; or (iii) participating full time in a program or activity  
625 approved by said commissioner that is designed to promote or remove  
626 barriers to employment. The commissioner, in the commissioner's  
627 discretion, may waive the provision of full-time enrollment or  
628 participation based on compelling circumstances. Not more than one  
629 hundred twenty days after the youth's eighteenth birthday, the  
630 department shall file a motion in the superior court for juvenile matters  
631 that had jurisdiction over the youth's case prior to the youth's eighteenth  
632 birthday for a determination as to whether continuation in care is in the  
633 youth's best interest and, if so, whether there is an appropriate  
634 permanency plan. The court, in its discretion, may hold a hearing on  
635 said motion.

636 (B) Any youth who was committed to the commissioner pursuant to  
637 this subsection and, having declined to consent to remain in the care of  
638 the commissioner, left such care once such youth turned eighteen years  
639 of age, may request, in a form and manner prescribed by the  
640 commissioner, not later than sixty days prior to the date such youth  
641 turns twenty-one years of age, to reenter into the care of the  
642 commissioner. Upon receipt of such request, the commissioner shall  
643 determine whether such youth meets the requirements described in  
644 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. If the commissioner determines  
645 that such youth meets such requirements, the department may request  
646 that such youth enter into a written agreement governing the terms of  
647 his or her voluntary reentry into the care of the commissioner and  
648 permit such youth to reenter care. Not more than sixty days after the  
649 execution of such agreement, the commissioner shall file a motion in the  
650 superior court for juvenile matters that had jurisdiction over the youth's  
651 case prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday for a determination as to  
652 whether reentry into care is in the youth's best interest and, if so,  
653 whether there is an appropriate permanency plan. The court may hold  
654 a hearing on said motion.

655 (7) Prior to issuing an order for permanent legal guardianship, the

656 court shall provide notice to each parent that the parent may not file a  
657 motion to terminate the permanent legal guardianship, or the court shall  
658 indicate on the record why such notice could not be provided, and the  
659 court shall find by clear and convincing evidence that the permanent  
660 legal guardianship is in the best interests of the child or youth and that  
661 the following have been proven by clear and convincing evidence:

662 (A) One of the statutory grounds for termination of parental rights  
663 exists, as set forth in subsection (j) of section 17a-112, or the parents have  
664 voluntarily consented to the establishment of the permanent legal  
665 guardianship;

666 (B) Adoption of the child or youth is not possible or appropriate;

667 (C) (i) If the child or youth is at least twelve years of age, such child  
668 or youth consents to the proposed permanent legal guardianship, or (ii)  
669 if the child is under twelve years of age, the proposed permanent legal  
670 guardian is: (I) A relative, (II) a caregiver, or (III) already serving as the  
671 permanent legal guardian of at least one of the child's siblings, if any;

672 (D) The child or youth has resided with the proposed permanent  
673 legal guardian for at least a year; and

674 (E) The proposed permanent legal guardian is (i) a suitable and  
675 worthy person, and (ii) committed to remaining the permanent legal  
676 guardian and assuming the right and responsibilities for the child or  
677 youth until the child or youth attains the age of majority.

678 (8) An order of permanent legal guardianship may be reopened and  
679 modified and the permanent legal guardian removed upon the filing of  
680 a motion with the court, provided it is proven by a fair preponderance  
681 of the evidence that the permanent legal guardian is no longer suitable  
682 and worthy. A parent may not file a motion to terminate a permanent  
683 legal guardianship. If, after a hearing, the court terminates a permanent  
684 legal guardianship, the court, in appointing a successor legal guardian  
685 or permanent legal guardian for the child or youth shall do so in  
686 accordance with this subsection.

687 (k) (1) (A) Nine months after placement of the child or youth in the  
688 care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to a voluntary  
689 placement agreement, or removal of a child or youth pursuant to section  
690 17a-101g or an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction,  
691 whichever is earlier, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of  
692 a permanency plan if the child or youth has not reached his or her  
693 eighteenth birthday. Nine months after a permanency plan has been  
694 approved by the court pursuant to this subsection or subdivision (5) of  
695 subsection (j) of this section, the commissioner shall file a motion for  
696 review of the permanency plan. Any party seeking to oppose the  
697 commissioner's permanency plan, including a relative of a child or  
698 youth by [blood or marriage] blood, marriage or law who has  
699 intervened pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and is licensed as a  
700 foster parent for such child or youth or is vested with such child's or  
701 youth's temporary custody by order of the court, shall file a motion in  
702 opposition not later than thirty days after the filing of the  
703 commissioner's motion for review of the permanency plan, which  
704 motion shall include the reason therefor. A permanency hearing on any  
705 motion for review of the permanency plan shall be held not later than  
706 ninety days after the filing of such motion. The court shall hold  
707 evidentiary hearings in connection with any contested motion for  
708 review of the permanency plan and credible hearsay evidence regarding  
709 any party's compliance with specific steps ordered by the court shall be  
710 admissible at such evidentiary hearings. The commissioner shall have  
711 the burden of proving that the proposed permanency plan is in the best  
712 interests of the child or youth. After the initial permanency hearing,  
713 subsequent permanency hearings shall be held not less frequently than  
714 every twelve months while the child or youth remains in the custody of  
715 the Commissioner of Children and Families or, if the youth is over  
716 eighteen years of age, while the youth remains in voluntary placement  
717 with the department. The court shall provide notice to the child or  
718 youth, the parent or guardian of such child or youth, and any intervenor  
719 of the time and place of the court hearing on any such motion not less  
720 than fourteen days prior to such hearing.

721 (B) (i) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the child's permanency

722 plan, and any revision to such plan, shall be developed in consultation  
723 with the child. In developing or revising such plan, the child may  
724 consult up to two individuals participating in the department's case  
725 plan regarding such child, neither of whom shall be the foster parent or  
726 caseworker of such child. One individual so selected by such child may  
727 be designated as the child's advisor for purposes of developing or  
728 revising the permanency plan. Regardless of the child's age, the  
729 commissioner shall provide not less than five days' advance written  
730 notice of any permanency team meeting concerning the child's  
731 permanency plan to an attorney or guardian ad litem appointed to  
732 represent the child pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

733 (ii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, the commissioner shall  
734 notify the parent or guardian, foster parent and child of any  
735 administrative case review regarding such child's commitment not less  
736 than five days prior to such review and shall make a reasonable effort  
737 to schedule such review at a time and location that allows the parent or  
738 guardian, foster parent and child to attend.

739 (iii) If a child is at least twelve years of age, such child shall, whenever  
740 possible, identify not more than three adults with whom such child has  
741 a significant relationship and who may serve as a permanency resource.  
742 The identity of such adults shall be recorded in the case plan of such  
743 child.

744 (2) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions  
745 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall approve a  
746 permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child or youth and  
747 takes into consideration the child's or youth's need for permanency. The  
748 child's or youth's health and safety shall be of paramount concern in  
749 formulating such plan. Such permanency plan may include the goal of  
750 (A) revocation of commitment and reunification of the child or youth  
751 with the parent or guardian, with or without protective supervision; (B)  
752 transfer of guardianship or permanent legal guardianship; (C) filing of  
753 termination of parental rights and adoption; or (D) for a child sixteen  
754 years of age or older, another planned permanent living arrangement

755 ordered by the court, provided the Commissioner of Children and  
756 Families has documented a compelling reason why it would not be in  
757 the best interests of the child or youth for the permanency plan to  
758 include the goals in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this  
759 subdivision. Such other planned permanent living arrangement shall,  
760 whenever possible, include an adult who has a significant relationship  
761 with the child, and who is willing to be a permanency resource, and may  
762 include, but not be limited to, placement of a youth in an independent  
763 living program or long term foster care with an identified foster parent.

764 (3) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older  
765 includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement  
766 pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or  
767 subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 17a-111b, the department  
768 shall document for the court: (A) The manner and frequency of efforts  
769 made by the department to return the child home or to secure placement  
770 for the child with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive  
771 parent; and (B) the steps the department has taken to ensure (i) the  
772 child's foster family home or child care institution is following a  
773 reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in section 17a-114d;  
774 and (ii) the child has regular opportunities to engage in age appropriate  
775 and developmentally appropriate activities, as defined in section 17a-  
776 114d.

777 (4) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions  
778 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall (A) (i) ask the child  
779 or youth about his or her desired permanency outcome, or (ii) if the child  
780 or youth is unavailable to appear at such hearing, require the attorney  
781 for the child or youth to consult with the child or youth regarding the  
782 child's or youth's desired permanency outcome and report the same to  
783 the court, (B) review the status of the child or youth, (C) review the  
784 progress being made to implement the permanency plan, (D) determine  
785 a timetable for attaining the permanency plan, (E) determine the  
786 services to be provided to the parent if the court approves a permanency  
787 plan of reunification and the timetable for such services, and (F)  
788 determine whether the commissioner has made reasonable efforts to

789 achieve the permanency plan. The court may revoke commitment if a  
790 cause for commitment no longer exists and it is in the best interests of  
791 the child or youth.

792 (5) If the permanency plan for a child sixteen years of age or older  
793 includes the goal of another planned permanent living arrangement  
794 pursuant to subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
795 court shall (A) (i) ask the child about his or her desired permanency  
796 outcome, or (ii) if the child is unavailable to appear at a permanency  
797 hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
798 subsection, require the attorney for the child to consult with the child  
799 regarding the child's desired permanency outcome and report the same  
800 to the court; (B) make a judicial determination that, as of the date of  
801 hearing, another planned permanent living arrangement is the best  
802 permanency plan for the child; and (C) document the compelling  
803 reasons why it is not in the best interest of the child to return home or  
804 to be placed with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive  
805 parent.

806 (6) If the court approves the permanency plan of adoption: (A) The  
807 Commissioner of Children and Families shall file a petition for  
808 termination of parental rights not later than sixty days after such  
809 approval if such petition has not previously been filed; (B) the  
810 commissioner may conduct a thorough adoption assessment and child-  
811 specific recruitment; and (C) the court may order that the child be photo-  
812 listed within thirty days if the court determines that such photo-listing  
813 is in the best interests of the child or youth. As used in this subdivision,  
814 "thorough adoption assessment" means conducting and documenting  
815 face-to-face interviews with the child or youth, foster care providers and  
816 other significant parties and "child specific recruitment" means  
817 recruiting an adoptive placement targeted to meet the individual needs  
818 of the specific child or youth, including, but not limited to, use of the  
819 media, use of photo-listing services and any other in-state or out-of-state  
820 resources that may be used to meet the specific needs of the child or  
821 youth, unless there are extenuating circumstances that indicate that  
822 such efforts are not in the best interests of the child or youth.

823 (l) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall pay directly to  
824 the person or persons furnishing goods or services determined by said  
825 commissioner to be necessary for the care and maintenance of such child  
826 or youth the reasonable expense thereof, payment to be made at  
827 intervals determined by said commissioner; and the Comptroller shall  
828 draw his or her order on the Treasurer, from time to time, for such part  
829 of the appropriation for care of committed children or youths as may be  
830 needed in order to enable the commissioner to make such payments.  
831 The commissioner shall include in the department's annual budget a  
832 sum estimated to be sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section.  
833 Notwithstanding that any such child or youth has income or estate, the  
834 commissioner may pay the cost of care and maintenance of such child  
835 or youth. The commissioner may bill to and collect from the person in  
836 charge of the estate of any child or youth aided under this chapter, or  
837 the payee of such child's or youth's income, the total amount expended  
838 for care of such child or youth or such portion thereof as any such estate  
839 or payee is able to reimburse, provided the commissioner shall not  
840 collect from such estate or payee any reimbursement for the cost of care  
841 or other expenditures made on behalf of such child or youth from (1) the  
842 proceeds of any cause of action received by such child or youth; (2) any  
843 lottery proceeds due to such child or youth; (3) any inheritance due to  
844 such child or youth; (4) any payment due to such child or youth from a  
845 trust other than a trust created pursuant to 42 USC 1396p, as amended  
846 from time to time; or (5) the decedent estate of such child or youth.

847 (m) The commissioner, a parent or the child's attorney may file a  
848 motion to revoke a commitment, and, upon finding that cause for  
849 commitment no longer exists, and that such revocation is in the best  
850 interests of such child or youth, the court may revoke the commitment  
851 of such child or youth. No such motion shall be filed more often than  
852 once every six months.

853 (n) If the court has ordered legal guardianship of a child or youth to  
854 be vested in a suitable and worthy person pursuant to subsection (j) of  
855 this section, the child's or youth's parent or former legal guardian may  
856 file a motion to reinstate guardianship of the child or youth in such

857 parent or former legal guardian. Upon the filing of such a motion, the  
858 court may order the Commissioner of Children and Families to  
859 investigate the home conditions and needs of the child or youth and the  
860 home conditions of the person seeking reinstatement of guardianship,  
861 and to make a recommendation to the court. A party to a motion for  
862 reinstatement of guardianship shall not be entitled to court-appointed  
863 counsel or representation by Division of Public Defender Services  
864 assigned counsel, except as provided in section 46b-136. Upon finding  
865 that the cause for the removal of guardianship no longer exists, and that  
866 reinstatement is in the best interests of the child or youth, the court may  
867 reinstate the guardianship of the parent or the former legal guardian.  
868 No such motion may be filed more often than once every six months.

869 (o) Upon service on the parent, guardian or other person having  
870 control of the child or youth of any order issued by the court pursuant  
871 to the provisions of subsections (b) and (j) of this section, the child or  
872 youth concerned shall be surrendered to the person serving the order  
873 who shall forthwith deliver the child or youth to the person, agency,  
874 department or institution awarded custody in the order. Upon refusal  
875 of the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or  
876 youth to surrender the child or youth as provided in the order, the court  
877 may cause a warrant to be issued charging the parent, guardian or other  
878 person having control of the child or youth with contempt of court. If  
879 the person arrested is found in contempt of court, the court may order  
880 such person confined until the person complies with the order, but for  
881 not more than six months, or may fine such person not more than five  
882 hundred dollars, or both.

883 (p) A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver  
884 shall receive notice and have the right to be heard for the purposes of  
885 this section in Superior Court in any proceeding concerning a foster  
886 child living with such foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or  
887 relative caregiver. A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or  
888 relative caregiver who has cared for a child or youth shall have the right  
889 to be heard and comment on the best interests of such child or youth in  
890 any proceeding under this section which is brought not more than one

891 year after the last day the foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or  
892 relative caregiver provided such care. Any notice provided pursuant to  
893 this subsection shall include the Internet web site address for any  
894 proceeding that will be conducted on a virtual platform. The court shall  
895 confirm compliance with the notice requirements set forth in this  
896 subsection at any such proceeding.

897 (q) Upon motion of any sibling of any child committed to the  
898 Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section, such  
899 sibling shall have the right to be heard concerning visitation with, and  
900 placement of, any such child. In awarding any visitation or modifying  
901 any placement, the court shall be guided by the best interests of all  
902 siblings affected by such determination.

903 (r) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child  
904 or youth from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the  
905 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to  
906 placements pursuant to this section. In any proceeding under this  
907 section involving the placement of a child or youth in another state  
908 where the provisions of section 17a-175 are applicable, the court shall,  
909 before ordering or approving such placement, state for the record the  
910 court's finding concerning compliance with the provisions of section  
911 17a-175. The court's statement shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A  
912 finding that the state has received notice in writing from the receiving  
913 state, in accordance with subsection (d) of Article III of section 17a-175,  
914 indicating that the proposed placement does not appear contrary to the  
915 interests of the child or youth, (2) the court has reviewed such notice, (3)  
916 whether or not an interstate compact study or other home study has  
917 been completed by the receiving state, and (4) if such a study has been  
918 completed, whether the conclusions reached by the receiving state as a  
919 result of such study support the placement.

920 (s) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children  
921 and Families shall provide notice to (1) each attorney of record for each  
922 party involved in the proceeding when the department seeks to transfer  
923 a child or youth in its care, custody or control to an out-of-state

924 placement, and (2) the attorney for the child or youth, and any guardian  
925 ad litem for such child or youth, of (A) any new report of abuse or  
926 neglect pertaining to such child or youth or such child's or youth's  
927 parent or guardian received pursuant to section 17a-103a, (B) whether  
928 such report resulted in an investigation, and (C) the results of any such  
929 investigation.

930 (t) If a child or youth is placed into out-of-home care by the  
931 Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to this section, the  
932 commissioner shall include in any report the commissioner submits to  
933 the court information regarding (1) the safety and suitability of such  
934 child's or youth's placement, taking into account the requirements set  
935 forth in section 17a-114; (2) whether the department has received or  
936 obtained the most recent information concerning such child's or youth's  
937 medical, dental, developmental, educational and treatment needs from  
938 any relevant service providers; (3) a timeline for ensuring that such  
939 needs are met; (4) for any such child or youth under three years of age,  
940 whether the child or youth was screened for developmental and social-  
941 emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-106e, whether any such delays  
942 were identified and, if so, whether the child or youth was referred to the  
943 birth-to-three program pursuant to said section; (5) the dates of  
944 administrative case review meetings and permanency team meetings;  
945 (6) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or  
946 youth or a parent or guardian of such child or youth pursuant to section  
947 17a-103a, and (A) whether such report resulted in an investigation, and  
948 (B) the findings of any such investigation; and (7) any new criminal  
949 charges pending against any such parent or guardian. Such information  
950 shall also be submitted to the court (A) not later than ninety days after  
951 such child or youth is placed into out-of-home care; (B) if such child's or  
952 youth's out-of-home placement changes; and (C) if the commissioner  
953 files a permanency plan on behalf of such child or youth. The court shall  
954 consider such information in making decisions regarding such child's or  
955 youth's best interests.

956 (u) Prior to the issuance of any order affecting the legal status or  
957 placement of a child in any proceeding under this section, the court shall

958 confirm that (1) any attorney for such child has obtained a clear  
959 understanding of the situation and the needs of such child, as described  
960 in 42 USC 5106a(b)(2)(B), as amended from time to time; (2) any  
961 guardian ad litem for such child has performed an independent  
962 investigation of the case and is prepared to present information  
963 pertinent to the court's determination of the best interests of such child,  
964 in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (D) of subdivision  
965 (2) of section 46b-129a; and (3) any attorney or guardian ad litem for  
966 such child has (A) communicated regularly with such child, or, in the  
967 case of a nonverbal child, such child's caregivers and service providers,  
968 and (B) visited with such child with sufficient frequency as to be  
969 informed of such child's situation and needs.

970 (v) In any proceeding to review, modify, terminate or extend an order  
971 of protective supervision, the Department of Children and Families  
972 shall file with the court information concerning (1) whether the  
973 department has received or obtained the most up-to-date information  
974 concerning the child's medical, dental, developmental, educational and  
975 treatment needs from any relevant service providers; (2) whether the  
976 child has received services recommended by any such providers and a  
977 description of any concerns identified by such providers; (3) a  
978 description of (A) any new report alleging abuse or neglect pertaining  
979 to the child or a parent or guardian of the child received pursuant to  
980 section 17a-103a, (B) whether such report resulted in an investigation,  
981 and (C) the findings of any such investigation; (4) any new criminal  
982 charges pending against any such parent or guardian; and (5) for any  
983 child under three years of age, whether the child was screened for  
984 developmental and social-emotional delays pursuant to section 17a-  
985 106e, whether any such delays were identified and, if so, whether the  
986 child was referred to the birth-to-three program pursuant to said  
987 section.

988 (w) In any proceeding under this section, the Department of Children  
989 and Families shall identify the source of any documentation, statements  
990 or allegations included in the department's submissions to the court and  
991 the date or dates upon which any such information was obtained by the

992 department.

993 Sec. 8. Section 46b-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
994 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

995 No child shall be prosecuted for an offense before the regular criminal  
996 docket of the Superior Court except as provided in section 46b-127,  
997 [and] subsection (f) of section 46b-133c and subsection (f) of section 46b-  
998 133d.

999 Sec. 9. Section 51-286f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1000 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1001 The prosecuting official in a criminal proceeding shall request [on the  
1002 record] that a transcript be prepared of any sentencing hearing at which  
1003 a defendant is sentenced to a definite, nonsuspended sentence of more  
1004 than two years imprisonment. The Chief Court Administrator shall  
1005 provide, in a format prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator, any  
1006 such transcript to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

1007 Sec. 10. Section 52-146v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1008 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1009 (a) As used in this section:

1010 (1) "Peer support team member" means any person engaged in  
1011 directing or staffing any peer support program established by an  
1012 employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder;

1013 (2) "First responder" means: Any peace officer, as defined in section  
1014 53a-3; any firefighter, as defined in section 7-313g; any person employed  
1015 as a firefighter by a private employer; any ambulance driver, emergency  
1016 medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced  
1017 emergency medical technician or paramedic, as defined in section 19a-  
1018 175; any telecommunicator, as defined in section 28-30; and any  
1019 employee of the Department of Correction; and

1020 (3) "Confidential communications" means all oral and written

1021 communications transmitted in confidence between a first responder  
1022 and a peer support team member in the course of participation in an  
1023 employer established peer support program and all records prepared  
1024 by a peer support team member related to such first responder's  
1025 participation in such program.

1026 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and unless the  
1027 first responder making the confidential communication waives the  
1028 privilege, no peer support team member shall disclose any confidential  
1029 communications (1) to any third person, other than a person to whom  
1030 disclosure is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the  
1031 purposes for which such member is consulted, (2) in any civil or  
1032 criminal case or proceeding, or (3) in any legislative or administrative  
1033 proceeding.

1034 (c) No person in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any  
1035 legislative or administrative proceeding may request or require  
1036 information from any first responder relating to the first responder's  
1037 participation in a peer support program, including whether or not such  
1038 first responder at any time participated in such peer support program.

1039 (d) Consent of a first responder shall not be required for the  
1040 disclosure of such first responder's confidential communications:

1041 (1) Where mandated by any other provision of the general statutes;

1042 (2) Where a peer support team member believes in good faith that the  
1043 failure to disclose such confidential communications presents a clear  
1044 and present danger to any individual, including the first responder; and

1045 (3) Where the peer support team member was a witness or party to  
1046 an incident that resulted in the delivery of peer support services to the  
1047 first responder.

1048 (e) (1) A peer support team member shall not be liable for damages  
1049 for any act, error or omission, not wanton, reckless or malicious,  
1050 committed by the peer support team or peer support team member in  
1051 performing peer support services for the benefit of an employee who is

1052 a first responder.

1053 (2) An employer shall not be liable for damages arising out of the  
1054 establishment or maintenance of a peer support program established by  
1055 such employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder.

1056 (3) As used in this subsection, "performing peer support services"  
1057 includes, but is not limited to, the determination of whether disclosure  
1058 of a first responder's confidential communications is appropriate  
1059 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

1060 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 53a-32 of the general statutes is  
1061 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1062 *1, 2026*):

1063 (a) At any time during the period of probation or conditional  
1064 discharge, the court or any judge thereof may issue a warrant for the  
1065 arrest of a defendant for violation of any of the conditions of probation  
1066 or conditional discharge, or may issue a notice to appear to answer to a  
1067 charge of such violation, which notice shall be personally served upon  
1068 the defendant. Whenever a probation officer has probable cause to  
1069 believe that a person on probation who is a serious firearm offender has  
1070 violated a condition of probation, and such probation officer reasonably  
1071 believes that such person may pose a risk to the safety of another person  
1072 or persons or is for a new felony arrest or knows that a person on  
1073 probation for a felony conviction has been arrested for the commission  
1074 of a serious firearm offense, such probation officer shall apply to the  
1075 court or any judge thereof for a warrant for the arrest of such person for  
1076 violation of a condition or conditions of probation or conditional  
1077 discharge. Any such warrant shall authorize all officers named therein  
1078 to return the defendant to the custody of the court or to any suitable  
1079 detention facility designated by the court. Whenever a probation officer  
1080 has probable cause to believe that a person has violated a condition of  
1081 such person's probation, such probation officer (1) may notify any police  
1082 officer that such person has, in such officer's judgment, violated the  
1083 conditions of such person's probation, and (2) shall notify such police  
1084 officer if such person is a serious firearm offender and such probation

1085 officer reasonably believes that such person may pose a risk to the safety  
1086 of another person or persons or is for a new felony arrest or is on  
1087 probation for a felony conviction and has been arrested for the  
1088 commission of a serious firearm offense. Such notice shall be sufficient  
1089 warrant for the police officer to arrest such person and return such  
1090 person to the custody of the court or to any suitable detention facility  
1091 designated by the court. Whenever a probation officer so notifies a  
1092 police officer, the probation officer shall notify the victim of the offense  
1093 for which such person is on probation, and any victim advocate  
1094 assigned to assist the victim, provided the probation officer has been  
1095 provided with the name and contact information for such victim or  
1096 victim advocate. Any probation officer may arrest any defendant on  
1097 probation without a warrant or may deputize any other officer with  
1098 power to arrest to do so by giving such other officer a written statement  
1099 setting forth that the defendant has, in the judgment of the probation  
1100 officer, violated the conditions of the defendant's probation. Such  
1101 written statement, delivered with the defendant by the arresting officer  
1102 to the official in charge of any correctional center or other place of  
1103 detention, shall be sufficient warrant for the detention of the defendant.  
1104 After making such an arrest, such probation officer shall present to the  
1105 detaining authorities a similar statement of the circumstances of  
1106 violation. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, provisions  
1107 regarding release on bail of persons charged with a crime shall be  
1108 applicable to any defendant arrested under the provisions of this  
1109 section. Upon such arrest and detention, the probation officer shall  
1110 immediately so notify the court or any judge thereof.

1111 Sec. 12. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 54-56l of the general statutes  
1112 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
1113 *October 1, 2026*):

1114 (d) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services  
1115 Division for confirmation of eligibility and assessment of the person's  
1116 mental health condition. If such person resides outside of the State of  
1117 Connecticut, such person shall return to the State of Connecticut as  
1118 instructed by the division for assessment of such person's mental health

1119 condition. The prosecuting attorney shall provide the division with a  
1120 copy of the police report in the case to assist the division in its  
1121 assessment. The division shall determine if the person is amenable to  
1122 treatment and if appropriate community supervision, treatment and  
1123 services are available. If the division determines that the person is  
1124 amenable to treatment and that appropriate community supervision,  
1125 treatment and services are available, the division shall develop a  
1126 treatment plan tailored to the person and shall present the treatment  
1127 plan to the court.

1128 (e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the  
1129 treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the  
1130 court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the  
1131 court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the  
1132 division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental  
1133 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs or  
1134 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, to place  
1135 such person in a program that provides appropriate community  
1136 supervision, treatment and services. The person shall be (1) subject to  
1137 the supervision of a probation officer who has a reduced caseload and  
1138 specialized training in working with persons with psychiatric  
1139 disabilities, and (2) classified for purposes of supervision and  
1140 monitoring standards pursuant to section 54-108b.

1141 Sec. 13. Subsection (k) of section 54-56l of the general statutes is  
1142 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1143 *1, 2026*):

1144 (k) The Court Support Services Division [~~, in consultation~~] may  
1145 consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
1146 [~~, shall~~] to develop standards and oversee appropriate treatment  
1147 programs to meet the requirements of this section and may contract  
1148 with service providers to provide such programs.

1149 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 46b-133 of the general statutes is  
1150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1151 *1, 2026*):

1152 (b) Whenever a child is brought before a judge of the Superior Court,  
1153 which court shall be the court that has jurisdiction over juvenile matters  
1154 where the child resides if the residence of such child can be determined,  
1155 such judge shall immediately have the case proceeded upon as a  
1156 juvenile matter. Such judge may admit the child to bail or release the  
1157 child in the custody of the child's parent or parents, the child's guardian  
1158 or some other suitable person to appear before the Superior Court when  
1159 ordered. If there is probable cause to believe that the child has  
1160 committed the acts alleged, the court may [consider if the child should  
1161 be assessed for services] order a risk and needs assessment to determine  
1162 whether the child could benefit from services. Any such risk and needs  
1163 assessment shall be subject to the protections of subsection (k) of section  
1164 46b-124. Such assessment shall be held not later than two weeks after  
1165 the child is arraigned and such child shall have the right to counsel at  
1166 such assessment. If detention becomes necessary, such detention shall  
1167 be in the manner prescribed by this chapter, provided the child shall be  
1168 placed in the least restrictive environment possible in a manner  
1169 consistent with public safety.

1170 Sec. 15. Subsection (o) of section 46b-121n of the 2026 supplement to  
1171 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1172 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1173 (o) Not later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the  
1174 Department of Correction [and the Court Support Services Division of  
1175 the Judicial Branch] shall report to the committee on compliance with  
1176 the provisions of section 46b-126a. Such reports shall present indicia of  
1177 compliance in both state facilities and those facilities managed by a  
1178 private provider under contract with the state, and shall include data on  
1179 all persons under eighteen years of age who have been removed or  
1180 excluded from educational settings as a result of alleged behavior  
1181 occurring in those educational settings.

1182 Sec. 16. Subsection (g) of section 10-253 of the general statutes is  
1183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
1184 *1, 2027*):

1185 (g) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "juvenile residential center"  
1186 means a juvenile residential center operated by, or under contract with,  
1187 the Judicial Department.

1188 (2) The local or regional board of education for the school district in  
1189 which a juvenile residential center is located shall be responsible for the  
1190 provision of general education and special education and related  
1191 services to children detained in such center. The provision of general  
1192 education and special education and related services shall be in  
1193 accordance with all applicable state and federal laws concerning the  
1194 provision of educational services. Such board may provide such  
1195 educational services directly or may contract with public or private  
1196 educational service providers for the provision of such services. Tuition  
1197 may be charged to the local or regional board of education under whose  
1198 jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school for the  
1199 provision of general education and special education and related  
1200 services. Responsibility for the provision of educational services to the  
1201 child shall begin on the date of the child's placement in the juvenile  
1202 residential center and financial responsibility for the provision of such  
1203 services shall begin upon the receipt by the child of such services.

1204 (3) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction  
1205 the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can  
1206 be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school  
1207 district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be  
1208 financially responsible for the tuition charged for the provision of  
1209 educational services to the child in such juvenile residential center. The  
1210 State Board of Education shall pay, on a current basis, any costs in excess  
1211 of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average per  
1212 pupil costs. If the local or regional board of education under whose  
1213 jurisdiction the child would otherwise be attending school cannot be  
1214 identified, the local or regional board of education for the school district  
1215 in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be eligible to  
1216 receive on a current basis from the State Board of Education any costs in  
1217 excess of such local or regional board of education's prior year's average  
1218 per pupil costs. Application for the grant to be paid by the state for costs

1219 in excess of the local or regional board of education's basic contribution  
1220 shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (5) of  
1221 subsection (e) of section 10-76d.

1222 (4) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction  
1223 the child would otherwise be attending school shall be financially  
1224 responsible for the provision of educational services to the child placed  
1225 in a juvenile residential center as provided in subdivision (3) of this  
1226 subsection notwithstanding that the child has been suspended from  
1227 school pursuant to section 10-233c, has been expelled from school  
1228 pursuant to section 10-233d or has withdrawn, dropped out or  
1229 otherwise terminated enrollment from school. Upon notification of such  
1230 board of education by the educational services provider for the juvenile  
1231 residential center, the child shall be reenrolled in the school district  
1232 where the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such  
1233 district can be identified, in the school district in which the juvenile  
1234 residential center is located, and provided with educational services in  
1235 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1236 (5) The local or regional board of education under whose jurisdiction  
1237 the child would otherwise be attending school or, if no such board can  
1238 be identified, the local or regional board of education for the school  
1239 district in which the juvenile residential center is located shall be  
1240 notified [in writing by the Judicial Branch of the child's placement at the  
1241 juvenile residential center not later than one business day after the  
1242 child's placement, notwithstanding any provision of the general  
1243 statutes] of the child's placement at the juvenile residential center in  
1244 writing by the Commissioner of Children and Families in accordance  
1245 with section 10-220h. The notification shall include the child's name and  
1246 date of birth, the address of the child's parents or guardian, placement  
1247 location and contact information, and such other information as is  
1248 necessary to provide educational services to the child.

1249 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, a child  
1250 who is enrolled in a school district at the time of placement in a juvenile  
1251 residential center shall remain enrolled in that same school district for

1252 the duration of his or her detention, unless the child voluntarily  
1253 terminates enrollment, and shall have the right to return to such school  
1254 district immediately upon discharge from the juvenile residential center  
1255 into the community.

1256 (7) When a child is not enrolled in a school at the time of placement  
1257 in a juvenile residential center:

1258 (A) The child shall be enrolled in the school district where the child  
1259 would otherwise be attending school not later than three business days  
1260 after notification is given pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection.

1261 (B) If no such district can be identified, the child shall be enrolled in  
1262 the school district in which the juvenile residential center is located not  
1263 later than three business days after the determination is made that no  
1264 such district can be identified.

1265 (8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged from a juvenile  
1266 residential center, the educational services provider for the juvenile  
1267 residential center shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the  
1268 child will continue his or her education after discharge from the juvenile  
1269 residential center.

1270 (9) Prior to the child's discharge from the juvenile residential center,  
1271 the local or regional board of education responsible for the provision of  
1272 educational services to children in the juvenile residential center shall  
1273 conduct an assessment of the school work completed by the child to  
1274 determine an assignment of academic credit for the work completed.  
1275 Credit assigned shall be the credit of the local or regional board of  
1276 education responsible for the provision of the educational services.  
1277 Credit assigned for work completed by the child shall be accepted in  
1278 transfer by the local or regional board of education for the school district  
1279 in which the child continues his or her education after discharge from  
1280 the juvenile residential center.

1281 Sec. 17. Section 47-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1282 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1283 (a) A person, as defined in section 42a-1-201, who has been identified  
1284 in a filing pursuant to chapters 821 to 822, inclusive, may petition the  
1285 Tax and Administrative Appeals Session of the Superior Court to  
1286 invalidate such filing, or any amendment thereof, when such filing was  
1287 falsely filed or amended. The court shall review such petition and  
1288 determine whether cause exists to doubt the validity of such filing or  
1289 amendment. Upon a determination that such cause exists, the court  
1290 [shall] may, not later than sixty days after the date of such  
1291 determination, hold a hearing to determine whether to invalidate such  
1292 filing or amendment or grant any other relief deemed appropriate by  
1293 the court. There shall be no fee to petition for a hearing under this  
1294 section. The court's finding may be made solely on a review of the  
1295 documentation attached to the petition and the responses, if any, of the  
1296 person named as a lienor on the land records and without hearing any  
1297 oral testimony, if none is offered by the lienor. The person petitioning  
1298 the court to invalidate a filing shall send a copy of such petition to all  
1299 parties named in such filing.

1300 (b) A person who files a petition under subsection (a) of this section  
1301 shall include, as part of such petition, a certified copy of the filing, and  
1302 any amendment thereof, that such person seeks to invalidate.

1303 (c) In determining whether cause exists to doubt the validity of a  
1304 filing or amendment under subsection (a) of this section, the court may  
1305 consider factors that include, but are not limited to, whether (1) the filing  
1306 or amendment is related to a valid existing commercial, financial or real  
1307 estate transaction, or a potential commercial, financial or real estate  
1308 transaction, or a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction; (2) the  
1309 same individual is named as both debtor and creditor; (3) an individual  
1310 is named as a transmitting utility; and (4) the filing or amendment has  
1311 been filed with the intent to defraud, deceive, injure or harass a person,  
1312 business or governmental entity.

1313 (d) If the court determines [after a hearing] that a filing identified in  
1314 a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not valid, the  
1315 court shall render a judgment that such filing is void in its entirety and

1316 shall direct the custodian of such filing, when feasible, to note that such  
1317 filing is not valid. The court may grant such other relief as it deems  
1318 appropriate. The petitioner under subsection (a) of this section shall  
1319 provide a copy of the petition and the judgment of the court granting  
1320 such petition to the custodian of the filing adjudged invalid by the court.

1321 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The official seal of the  
1322 Connecticut Judicial Branch, or imitation thereof, whether as a  
1323 reproduction, imprint or facsimile, shall be made and used only under  
1324 the direction and with the approval of the Office of the Chief Court  
1325 Administrator for purposes specifically authorized by the Constitution  
1326 and laws of the state or related directly or indirectly to the official  
1327 business of the Judicial Branch, provided the Chief Court Administrator  
1328 may in the administrator's judgment approve other reproductions of  
1329 said seal for educational purposes as determined by the administrator.

1330 Sec. 19. Section 54-207a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1331 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1332 The Office of the Chief Court Administrator or the Chief Court  
1333 Administrator's designee shall prescribe such policies and procedures,  
1334 as deemed necessary, to implement the provisions of sections 54-201 to  
1335 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 19a-112e to 19a-  
1336 112g, inclusive, and may formulate standards for the uniform  
1337 application of the payment of compensation of claims.

1338 Sec. 20. Section 54-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1339 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1340 As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive:

1341 (1) "Victim" means a person who is injured or killed as provided in  
1342 section 54-209;

1343 (2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm or emotional harm  
1344 and includes pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury or death  
1345 to a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from time  
1346 to time, owned or kept by a person with a disability;

1347 (3) "Dependent" means any relative of a deceased victim or a person  
1348 designated by a deceased victim in accordance with section 1-56r who  
1349 was wholly or partially dependent upon his income at the time of his  
1350 death or the child of a deceased victim and shall include the child of  
1351 such victim born after his death;

1352 (4) "Relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent,  
1353 stepparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child, including a natural born  
1354 child, stepchild and adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, half  
1355 brother or half sister or a parent of a person's spouse;

1356 (5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-  
1357 25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime  
1358 committed by a juvenile;

1359 (6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that  
1360 is (A) directly attributable to a threat of [(A)] (i) physical injury, as  
1361 defined in subdivision (3) of section 53a-3, or [(B)] (ii) death to the  
1362 affected person, or (B) caused by the intentional or knowing actions of  
1363 another person, and such actions would cause a reasonable person to  
1364 fear for such person's safety; and

1365 (7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345.

1366 Sec. 21. Section 46b-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1367 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1368 (a) Whenever the Probate Court, in a guardianship matter under  
1369 chapter 802h, or the Superior Court, in a family relations matter, as  
1370 defined in section 46b-1, orders a change or transfer of the guardianship  
1371 or custody of a child who is the subject of a preexisting support order,  
1372 and the court makes no finding with respect to such support order, such  
1373 guardianship or custody order shall operate to: (1) Suspend the support  
1374 order if guardianship or custody is transferred to the obligor under the  
1375 support order; or (2) modify the payee of the support order to be the  
1376 person or entity awarded guardianship or custody of the child by the  
1377 court, if such person or entity is other than the obligor under the support

1378 order.

1379 (b) Whenever the parties to a preexisting support order later  
1380 intermarry, such marriage shall operate to terminate the support order,  
1381 and the parties shall be jointly liable for ongoing support pursuant to  
1382 section 46b-37.

1383 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2026, the  
1384 Secretary of the State shall update the official compilation of the  
1385 regulations of Connecticut state agencies posted on the eRegulations  
1386 System in conformity with the provisions of section 4-168 of the general  
1387 statutes and section 23 of this act.

1388 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
1389 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 11-10b-1 to 11-10b-5,  
1390 inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

1391 Sec. 24. Section 52-407kk of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1392 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1393 (a) If the parties to an agreement to arbitrate agree on a method for  
1394 appointing an arbitrator, that method must be followed, unless the  
1395 method fails. If the parties have not agreed on a method, the agreed  
1396 method fails or an appointed arbitrator fails or is unable to act and a  
1397 successor has not been appointed, the court, on motion of a party to the  
1398 arbitration proceeding, shall appoint the arbitrator. An arbitrator so  
1399 appointed has all the powers of an arbitrator designated in the  
1400 agreement to arbitrate or appointed pursuant to the agreed method.

1401 (b) An individual who has a known, direct and material interest in  
1402 the outcome of the arbitration proceeding or a known, existing and  
1403 substantial relationship with a party may not serve as an arbitrator  
1404 required by an agreement to be neutral.

1405 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
1406 when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an  
1407 arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no  
1408 person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration

1409 proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and  
1410 thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such  
1411 person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all  
1412 parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the  
1413 requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's  
1414 qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not  
1415 more than fourteen days after the date of appointment of the arbitrator  
1416 to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet  
1417 the requirements of this subsection. For any arbitration proceeding  
1418 pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has  
1419 not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a  
1420 written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A  
1421 determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator  
1422 and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in  
1423 accordance with the provisions of this section.

1424       Sec. 25. Section 52-411 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1425 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1426       (a) If, in a written agreement to arbitrate, a method of appointing an  
1427 arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire has been provided, the method  
1428 shall be followed.

1429       (b) If no method is provided therein, or if a method is provided and  
1430 any party thereto fails to use the method, or if for any other reason there  
1431 is a failure in the naming of an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, or  
1432 if any arbitrator or umpire dies or is unable or refuses to serve, upon  
1433 application by a party to the arbitration agreement, the superior court  
1434 for the judicial district in which one of the parties resides or, in a  
1435 controversy concerning land, for the judicial district in which the land  
1436 is situated or, when the court is not in session, any judge thereof, shall  
1437 appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators or an umpire, as the case may  
1438 require. A person so appointed an arbitrator or umpire shall act under  
1439 any arbitration agreement with the same force and effect as if he had  
1440 been specifically named or referred to therein. Unless otherwise  
1441 provided in the agreement, the arbitration shall be by a single arbitrator.

1442 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
1443 when an agreement to arbitrate includes the method for selecting an  
1444 arbitrator for an arbitration proceeding to be conducted in this state, no  
1445 person may be appointed or serve as the arbitrator for the arbitration  
1446 proceeding unless, at the time the person is appointed as arbitrator, and  
1447 thereafter throughout the duration of the arbitration proceeding, such  
1448 person is a member in good standing of the bar of this state, unless all  
1449 parties to the agreement to arbitrate execute a written waiver of the  
1450 requirements of this subsection as relate to the arbitrator's  
1451 qualifications. Any party to an arbitration agreement shall have not  
1452 more than fourteen days after the date of appointment of the arbitrator  
1453 to object to such appointment on grounds that the arbitrator fails to meet  
1454 the requirements of this subsection. For any arbitration proceeding  
1455 pending in this state on July 1, 2026, in which an evidentiary hearing has  
1456 not commenced, any party to the arbitration proceeding may file a  
1457 written objection to the continued service of the arbitrator. A  
1458 determination on the objection to the continued service of the arbitrator  
1459 and whether a successor arbitrator is to be appointed shall be made in  
1460 accordance with the provisions of this section.

1461 [(c)] (d) An application under this section and the proceedings  
1462 thereon shall conform to the application and proceedings provided for  
1463 in section 52-410, except that such changes shall be made in the  
1464 complaint as may be necessary to correctly and concisely state the  
1465 plaintiff's claim.

1466 Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 54-65a of the general statutes is  
1467 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1468 *1, 2026*):

1469 (a) (1) Whenever an arrested person is released upon the execution of  
1470 a bond with surety in an amount of five hundred dollars or more and  
1471 such bond is ordered forfeited because the principal failed to appear in  
1472 court as conditioned in such bond, the court shall, at the time of ordering  
1473 the bond forfeited: (A) Issue a rearrest warrant or a capias directing a  
1474 proper officer to take the defendant into custody, (B) provide written or

1475 electronic notice to the surety on the bond that the principal has failed  
1476 to appear in court as conditioned in such bond, except that if the surety  
1477 on the bond is an insurer, as defined in section 38a-660, the court shall  
1478 provide such notice to such insurer and not to the surety bail bond  
1479 agent, as defined in section 38a-660, and (C) order a stay of execution  
1480 upon the forfeiture for six months. The court may, in its discretion and  
1481 for good cause shown, extend such stay of execution. A stay of execution  
1482 shall not prevent the issuance of a rearrest warrant or a *capias*.

1483 (2) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited is returned to  
1484 custody pursuant to the rearrest warrant or a *capias* within six months  
1485 after the date such bond was ordered forfeited or, if a stay of execution  
1486 was extended, within the time period inclusive of such extension of the  
1487 date such bond was ordered forfeited, the bond shall be automatically  
1488 terminated and the surety released and the court shall order new  
1489 conditions of release for the defendant in accordance with section  
1490 54-64a.

1491 (3) When the principal whose bond has been forfeited returns to court  
1492 voluntarily within five business days after the date such bond was  
1493 ordered forfeited, the court may, in its discretion, and after finding that  
1494 the defendant's failure to appear was not wilful, vacate the forfeiture  
1495 order and reinstate the bond.

1496 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 38a-660h of the general statutes is  
1497 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1498 *1, 2026*):

1499 (a) If collateral security or other indemnity was received on a bail  
1500 bond by a surety bail bond agent and such bond is terminated, the  
1501 insurer, managing general agent or surety bail bond agent shall return  
1502 the collateral security or other indemnity, except a promissory note or  
1503 an indemnity agreement, not later than twenty-one days after receipt of  
1504 [a written report] written or electronic notice from the court that an  
1505 electronic report is available indicating that the bail bond has been  
1506 terminated. Such collateral security or other indemnity shall be returned  
1507 to the person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity

1508 unless another disposition is provided for by legal assignment to  
1509 another person of the right to receive the return of the collateral security  
1510 or other indemnity. If, despite diligent inquiry by the insurer or  
1511 managing general agent to determine whether the bail bond has been  
1512 terminated, the court fails to provide notice of any [written] electronic  
1513 report on termination, the collateral security or other indemnity, except  
1514 a promissory note or an indemnity agreement, shall be returned to the  
1515 person who provided the collateral security or other indemnity not later  
1516 than twenty-one days after the insurer, managing general agent or  
1517 surety bail bond agent has become aware that the bail bond has been  
1518 terminated.

1519 Sec. 28. Section 51-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1520 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1521 (a) Each clerk of the Supreme Court and Superior Court shall account  
1522 for and pay or deposit all fees, fines, forfeitures and contributions made  
1523 to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the proceeds of  
1524 judgments of such clerk's office in the manner provided by section 4-32.  
1525 If any such clerk fails to so account and pay or deposit, such failure shall  
1526 be reported by the Treasurer to the Chief Court Administrator who may  
1527 thereupon remove the clerk. When any such clerk dies before so  
1528 accounting and paying or depositing, the Treasurer shall require the  
1529 executor of such clerk's will or administrator of such clerk's estate to so  
1530 account. If any such clerk is removed from office, the Treasurer shall  
1531 require such clerk to account for any money of the state remaining in  
1532 such clerk's hands at the time of such removal and, if such clerk neglects  
1533 to so account, the Treasurer shall certify the neglect to the Chief Court  
1534 Administrator.

1535 (b) (1) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the  
1536 violations occurred all amounts received in respect to the violation of  
1537 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, sections 14-251, 14-252,  
1538 14-253a and 14-305 to 14-308, inclusive, or any regulation adopted  
1539 thereunder or ordinance enacted in accordance therewith, and (2) in the  
1540 case of the municipalities ranked one to eight, inclusive, when all

1541 municipalities are ranked from highest to lowest in population, based  
1542 on the most recent federal decennial census, the state shall remit to the  
1543 municipality in which the violations occurred fifty per cent of the fine  
1544 amounts received in respect to the violation of section 14-250b, or any  
1545 ordinance enacted in accordance therewith. Each clerk of the Superior  
1546 Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the  
1547 Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on  
1548 or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each  
1549 year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter  
1550 under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the  
1551 clerk or official, provided prior to the institution of court proceedings, a  
1552 city, town or borough shall have the authority to collect and retain all  
1553 proceeds from parking violations committed within the jurisdiction of  
1554 such city, town or borough.

1555 (c) For the purpose of providing additional funds for municipal and  
1556 state police training, each person who pays in any sum as (1) a fine or  
1557 forfeiture for any violation of section 14-12, 14-215, 14-219, 14-222, 14-  
1558 224, 14-225, 14-227a, 14-227m, 14-227n, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269 or 14-283,  
1559 or (2) a fine or forfeiture for any infraction, shall pay an additional fee  
1560 of one dollar for each eight dollars or fraction thereof of the amount such  
1561 person is required to pay, except if such payment is made for violation  
1562 of such a section which is deemed to be an infraction, such additional  
1563 fee shall be only on the first eighty-eight dollars of such fine or  
1564 forfeiture. Such additional fee charged shall be deposited in the General  
1565 Fund.

1566 (d) Each person who pays in any sum as a fine or forfeiture for any  
1567 violation of sections 14-218a, 14-219, 14-222, 14-223, 14-227a, 14-227m,  
1568 14-227n, sections 14-230 to 14-240, inclusive, sections 14-241 to 14-249,  
1569 inclusive, section 14-279 for the first offense, sections 14-289b, 14-299,  
1570 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300j, sections 14-301 to 14-303, inclusive, or any  
1571 regulation adopted under said sections or ordinance enacted in  
1572 accordance with said sections shall pay an additional fee of twenty-five  
1573 dollars. The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violations  
1574 occurred the amounts paid under this subsection. Each clerk of the

1575 Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of  
1576 the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, on or  
1577 before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year,  
1578 shall certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter  
1579 under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the  
1580 clerk or official.

1581 (e) The state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violation  
1582 occurred all fine amounts received in respect to the violation of section  
1583 14-279 after crediting twelve per cent of such fine amounts to the Special  
1584 Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 and crediting  
1585 eight per cent of such fine amounts to the General Fund. Each clerk of  
1586 the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other  
1587 official of the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court  
1588 Administrator, shall, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July  
1589 and October in each year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for  
1590 the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served  
1591 by the office of the clerk or official.

1592 (f) The state shall remit to a lake authority, established pursuant to  
1593 section 7-151a, all amounts received in respect to any fine issued by such  
1594 lake authority for any violation of chapter 268. Each clerk of the Superior  
1595 Court or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the  
1596 Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on  
1597 or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each  
1598 year, certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter  
1599 under this subsection to each lake authority served by the office of the  
1600 clerk or official.

1601 Sec. 29. Section 6-32g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1602 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1603 After December 1, 2000, the Chief Court Administrator shall require  
1604 an applicant for employment as a judicial marshal pursuant to sections  
1605 6-32d and 6-32f to submit to a criminal record background investigation,  
1606 to be conducted by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
1607 Protection and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The applicant shall

1608 pay all processing fees incurred for such investigation. The Judicial  
 1609 Branch shall determine such applicant's suitability for employment as a  
 1610 judicial marshal.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	4b-52(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	4b-1
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	4-58
Sec. 4	July 1, 2026	46b-15f(h)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2026	46b-38c(c)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2026	46b-122(c)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2026	46b-129
Sec. 8	July 1, 2026	46b-145
Sec. 9	July 1, 2026	51-286f
Sec. 10	July 1, 2026	52-146v
Sec. 11	October 1, 2026	53a-32(a)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2026	54-56l(d) and (e)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2026	54-56l(k)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2026	46b-133(b)
Sec. 15	October 1, 2026	46b-121n(o)
Sec. 16	January 1, 2027	10-253(g)
Sec. 17	October 1, 2026	47-31a
Sec. 18	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 19	October 1, 2026	54-207a
Sec. 20	October 1, 2026	54-201
Sec. 21	October 1, 2026	46b-224
Sec. 22	from passage	New section
Sec. 23	from passage	New section
Sec. 24	July 1, 2026	52-407kk
Sec. 25	July 1, 2026	52-411
Sec. 26	October 1, 2026	54-65a(a)
Sec. 27	October 1, 2026	38a-660h(a)
Sec. 28	October 1, 2026	51-56a
Sec. 29	from passage	6-32g

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	20,000	20,000
Judicial Dept.	CICF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept.	CICF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; CICF=Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill makes various changes to court procedures and operations, resulting in the following fiscal impacts.

**Section 3** results in a potential revenue gain to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) by requiring the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to establish a procedure for selling or disposing of unclaimed detainee property, including clothing and jewelry. All sale proceeds must be credited to the CICF.

**Section 11** narrows the circumstances under which a probation officer must seek a warrant and notify police about a serious firearm offender's probation violation, resulting in a potential savings to the

Department of Correction beginning in FY 27, to the extent less individuals are incarcerated for violations of probation as a result of this bill.<sup>1</sup> On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.<sup>2</sup>

**Section 17** establishes a process by which a person can ask the court to invalidate a municipal lien. To the extent this reduces the number of third parties willing to purchase municipal tax liens, this may restrict a municipality's option to sell tax liens to recoup outstanding debt beginning in FY 27.

**Section 20** results in a minimal potential cost to the CICF by broadening the definition of "emotional harm", thereby expanding the circumstances under which certain crime victims may be compensated. Under current law, compensation for emotional harm may not exceed \$5,000.

**Section 28** increases the revenue that a lake authority may retain from fines issued for violations of state boating laws, resulting in an annual revenue loss to the General Fund of about \$20,000 beginning in FY 27.<sup>3</sup> This may also result in a potential minimal savings to municipalities that are members to the extent fewer funds are needed from the municipalities to support the lake authority.<sup>4</sup>

The bill also makes various conforming, procedural, and technical changes that do not result in a fiscal impact because the affected

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<sup>1</sup> There are currently about 1,300 individuals incarcerated for violations of probation or conditional discharge, though it is unknown how many of these violations concerned serious firearm offenders.

<sup>2</sup> Inmate marginal savings is based on decreased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.). This amount does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because savings for these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility closed. If this bill results in a large enough reduction in inmate population to allow for closing one or more units, the estimated marginal savings would be about \$12,500 per person.

<sup>3</sup> Between FY 22 and FY 25, it is estimated that lake authorities have collected an average of \$20,000 in fines annually under chapter 268 of the general statutes.

<sup>4</sup> Municipalities provide appropriations to lake authorities. For example, the Candlewood Lake Authority is funded by equal appropriations from Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, and Sherman.

agencies have the capacity and expertise to meet the requirements of these provisions.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any reduction in incarceration for violations of probation, compensation for victims who experienced emotional harm, and the number of fines imposed by lake authorities under chapter 268 of the general statutes.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 475*****AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.***

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§ 14 — JUVENILE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Allows the court to order a risk and needs assessment of an arrested child when it has found probable cause that the child committed the acts alleged

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§§ 22 & 23 — LAW LIBRARY REGULATIONS REPEAL

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§§ 24 & 25 — ARBITRATOR QUALIFICATIONS

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§§ 26 & 27 — ELECTRONIC NOTICE TO BAIL BOND AGENTS

Allows the court to electronically notify bail bond sureties when it forfeits a bond

§ 28 — BOATING FINE REMITTANCE TO LAKE AUTHORITIES

Requires the state to remit all fines issued by lake authorities for boating law violations to the authority that issued the fine

§ 29 — JUDICIAL MARSHAL APPLICANT SUITABILITY

Requires the judicial branch to determine the suitability of a judicial marshal applicant

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes various unrelated changes in laws on court procedures and operations. It also makes various technical and conforming changes. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, unless stated otherwise below.

**§§ 1 & 2 — CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE PROPERTY**

*Aligns provisions on making capital improvements to judicial branch and higher education constituent unit property without the DAS commissioner's prior approval*

The bill aligns expense caps on state-funded improvements (repairs,

alterations, or additions) that can be made, without the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner's prior approval, to buildings the judicial branch or the state's higher education constituent units rent or occupy.

Existing law sets the caps at \$3 million, but a separate provision requires the commissioner's approval for improvements to a state building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator (OCCA, which manages the branch's operations) or a constituent unit of the state higher education system that costs more than \$500,000, including contracts for the work. The bill (1) eliminates the inconsistency, applying the \$3 million threshold to both provisions and (2) makes a conforming change to the DAS commissioner's duties for administering capital improvements, which currently requires her oversight for judicial branch improvements with consultant services costing more than \$750,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the conforming change to the commissioner's duties is effective October 1, 2026.

### **§ 3 — DISPOSING OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

*Requires OCCA to establish a procedure for the judicial branch to dispose of unclaimed detainee property*

The bill requires OCCA to establish a procedure for selling or disposing of unclaimed detainee property, including clothing and jewelry, after a reasonable effort to return it to its owner. All sale proceeds must be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, which pays for compensation services for crime victims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

### **§ 4 — CONNECTICUT BAR FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT**

*Pushes back, from July 1 to September 30, the deadline for CBF to report to the Judiciary Committee about the temporary restraining order legal assistance program's impact*

The bill pushes back, from July 1 to September 30, the deadline for the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF), as administrator of the grant

program that provides free legal assistance to indigent people seeking temporary restraining orders, to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee on the program's impact. (By law, for each year that the program gets funding, CBF must (1) have an analysis done on its impact for the previous year, including information about procedural outcomes and the legal services provided and (2) report the results of the analysis to the committee.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## **§ 5 — FAMILY VIOLENCE RESPONSE AND INTERVENTION UNITS**

*Requires the judicial branch to inform DCF about progress on, and compliance with, court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases in both the branch's family violence intervention unit and DCF; consolidates and broadens authorized disclosures related to defendants' supervision and service needs*

The law requires the judicial branch, through its Court Support Services Division (CSSD), to have a family violence intervention unit in each geographical area court to respond to family violence cases. The units prepare reports on each case for the court, provide or arrange for victim and offender services (including referrals to counselors who deliver trauma-informed care), and contract for these services.

Generally, the information the units receive is confidential, but it must be disclosed for certain purposes. One required disclosure is to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if a defendant is a danger or threat to a child or the child's custodial parent. The bill also requires disclosure to DCF about progress and compliance with court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases in both the family violence intervention unit and DCF. But this information must only be used for child protection services and not in any other court proceeding unless another law allows it.

The bill also generally consolidates four authorized disclosures. Currently, the below information may be disclosed as follows:

1. information allowed under chief court administrator-adopted guidelines shared with specified employees (family relations counselor or trainee or family services supervisor);

2. information about a defendant on, or being considered for, pretrial release shared with a bail commissioner or a judicial branch intake, assessment, and referral specialist;
3. information about a defendant convicted and sentenced to probation in a family violence case shared with a probation officer to determine service needs and supervision levels; and
4. information about a defendant convicted in a family violence case shared with a probation officer to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Consolidating and broadening them, the bill allows for disclosure to another CSSD employee all files and reports about the defendant to (1) determine whether to recommend pretrial release; (2) prepare a presentence investigation report or a pre-dispositional study; (3) determine supervision and service needs, for both before a trial and after conviction; and (4) monitor and enforce release or probation conditions. The disclosure must be authorized by the CSSD executive director or a division designee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## **§§ 6 & 7 — JUVENILE MATTERS & PROCEEDINGS**

*Requires the court, when placing a child or youth in a protective supervision custody arrangement, to include specific steps for the parent to keep the child or youth in the parent's custody; eliminates outdated procedural court requirements for parentage acknowledgements; makes conforming changes to reflect that a person may be related by law, instead of only by blood or marriage*

By law, when the court decides in a commitment or custody proceeding that a child's or youth's care should be assigned to someone other than his or her parent, parents, or former guardian, the court must order specific steps that must be taken to help return the child or youth to the parent's custody. If the court orders placement with the parent under DCF protective supervision (meaning that DCF oversees the arrangement and the court sets conditions), the bill similarly requires the order to specify steps that must be taken to keep a child or youth in the parent's custody.

By law, an alleged genetic parent in a case involving a petition for a neglected, uncared for, or abused child or youth may sign a paternity acknowledgement. The bill eliminates outdated procedural requirements, specifically that the documents be executed and filed in line with an obsolete statutory chapter and sent to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for inclusion in the parentage registry. (Under current practice, the court does not participate in DPH's voluntary parentage establishment program.) It instead requires that the parent use a form that the court provides and that DPH creates.

The bill also makes several conforming changes to juvenile matters provisions to reflect the state's adoption of the Connecticut Parentage Act (PA 21-15) and that a person may be related by law, instead of only by blood or marriage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

#### **§ 8 — JUVENILE TRANSFER TO ADULT CRIMINAL COURT**

*Makes a conforming change to the statute that generally prohibits children from being prosecuted in adult court*

The bill adds a conforming reference to the statute that generally prohibits children from being prosecuted in adult court (the regular criminal docket) to reflect an exception in existing law that allows children to be tried in adult court when the case involves a serious homicide, firearm, or sexual offender prosecution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

#### **§ 9 — SENTENCING HEARING TRANSCRIPTS**

*Eliminates the requirement that prosecutors request certain sentencing hearing transcripts on the record*

Existing law requires prosecutors to request transcripts of sentencing hearings for cases with a definite, nonsuspended sentence of at least two years. The bill eliminates the requirement that the request be made on the record. This conforms to judicial branch practice, which requires all attorneys, unless exempt from the branch's electronic services requirements, to use the branch's online transcript ordering system.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## § 10 — PEER SUPPORT TEAM LIABILITY

*Immunizes (1) an employer for having a peer support program to benefit first responders and (2) a peer support team member from liability for performing peer support services*

By law, communications between a first responder and a peer support team member are generally confidential. A “peer support team member” is someone who directs or staffs an employer-established peer support program for first responders. First responders include, among others, peace officers, firefighters, ambulance drivers, EMTs, and Department of Correction (DOC) employees.

The bill immunizes employers from damages for setting up or maintaining a peer support program for their first responder employees. It also immunizes peer support team members from liability for their or their team’s acts, errors, or omissions made when providing peer support services for a first responder’s benefit (including deciding if it is appropriate to disclose confidential communications). However, this liability protection does not apply to wanton, reckless, or malicious conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## § 11 — PROBATION VIOLATIONS BY SERIOUS FIREARM OFFENDERS

*Narrows the circumstances under which a probation officer must seek a warrant and notify police about a serious firearm offender’s probation violation*

Under current law, a probation officer with probable cause to believe that a serious firearm offender violated a probation condition must (1) ask the court for a warrant to arrest the person and (2) notify the police. The bill narrows situations when this is required to those when (1) the probation officer reasonably believes that the person may be a safety risk to another person or (2) it is due to a new felony arrest.

By law, a “serious firearm offender” is someone with (1) two convictions for certain firearms offenses (such as possessing a stolen firearm or a firearm without its serial number, removing a firearm’s serial number, or illegally possessing a large capacity magazine) or (2) a

conviction for one of these offenses and a prior conviction for specified firearm offenses or at least two prior additional felony convictions.

### **§§ 12 & 13 — PRETRIAL DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES AND VETERANS**

*Requires program applicants who live outside of Connecticut to return to the state for mental health assessment; requires program participants to be classified based on risk level for supervisory and monitoring purposes; allows, instead of requires, CSSD to consult with DMHAS when developing standards, overseeing treatment programs, and contracting with service providers*

By law, CSSD operates a supervised diversionary program for people with psychiatric disabilities and veterans with mental health conditions who are accused of crimes that are not considered serious. A prospective participant must apply to the court to participate in the program, and the court refers the applicant to CSSD to determine eligibility and assess the person's mental health condition. Under the bill, if the applicant lives outside of Connecticut, he or she must return to the state as CSSD requires for the mental health assessment.

Existing law allows the court to grant a person's application to participate in the program after it confirms eligibility and considers the proposed treatment plan. Participants are supervised by a probation officer. The bill also, for supervision and monitoring purposes, requires the participants to be classified based on the level of risk they pose to the community, using the chief court administrator's existing system for doing this.

For the diversionary program, current law requires CSSD to develop standards and oversee treatment programs and allows it to contract with service providers, but all of this must be done in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The bill instead gives CSSD discretion to consult with DMHAS.

### **§ 14 — JUVENILE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

*Allows the court to order a risk and needs assessment of an arrested child when it has found probable cause that the child committed the acts alleged*

By law, a child arrested for a delinquent act must generally be brought before a Superior Court judge within five business days after

their arrest. At that time, if the court finds probable cause to believe that the child committed the acts alleged, current law allows it to consider whether the child should be assessed for services. The bill specifically allows the court to order a risk and needs assessment to determine if the child could benefit from services. It also requires that the assessment generally be confidential, as the law already requires for a child's risk or mental or behavior health screening.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the (1) assessment must occur within two weeks after the child's arraignment and (2) child has the right to counsel at the assessment.

A "risk and needs assessment" is a standardized tool that (1) helps juvenile probation officers collect and synthesize information about a child's recidivism risk and identify other factors that, if treated and changed, can reduce the likelihood of reoffending and (2) serves as a guide for intervention planning.

#### **§ 15 — REPORT ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

*Eliminates an annual reporting requirement for CSSD on out-of-school suspensions of children living in its residential facilities*

The bill removes a requirement that CSSD annually report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee on its compliance with the law that prohibits CSSD-operated facilities from giving children living at the facilities out-of-school suspensions. (In practice, CSSD does not (1) provide or contract for education services at its residential centers or programs or (2) make decisions about these suspensions.) Existing law, unchanged by the bill, also requires DOC to report on this information.

#### **§ 16 — STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS**

*Requires DCF, instead of the judicial branch, to inform the applicable board of education when a child is placed in a juvenile residential center*

The bill transfers, from the judicial branch to DCF, responsibility for notifying the local or regional board of education when a child is placed in a juvenile residential center.

By law, the written notice must go to the board that would otherwise be responsible for educating the child, or if there is not one, to the board for the school district where the juvenile residential center is located. It must have all necessary information to give the child educational services, including name and birthdate, parents' or guardians' address, and placement contact information.

Current law requires the judicial branch to send the notice within one business day after the child's placement. Under the bill, DCF must send the notice immediately upon placement, in line with its existing requirements to request the transfer of previous school records for students placed in juvenile justice facilities or incarcerated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

#### **§ 17 — INVALIDATING FALSE LIENS**

*Allows the court to discharge a falsely filed lien without a hearing*

Existing law sets out a process by which a person may ask the court to invalidate a lien that is falsely filed on the municipal land records.

By law, the court must review the petition and determine if there is reason to doubt the filing's validity. Current law requires the court to have a hearing, within 60 days after finding that there is reason to doubt it, to decide if the filing should be invalidated or other relief granted.

The bill allows the court to decide the matter without a hearing. It specifies that the court may base its decision on documents submitted with the petition and any responses from the person who is listed as the lienor (lien holder) on the land records. And the court need not hear oral testimony unless the lienor offers it.

#### **§ 18 — JUDICIAL BRANCH OFFICIAL SEAL**

*Restricts the use of the judicial branch's official seal and imitations of it*

The bill prohibits using the judicial branch's official seal, including imitations of it through a reproduction, imprint, or facsimile, without the chief court administrator's direction and approval. It also generally restricts the seal's use to purposes (1) authorized by the state's

constitution and statutes or (2) related to the judicial branch's official business. The bill allows the chief court administrator to approve other seal reproductions for educational purposes.

By law, a similar restriction applies to using the official arms and seal of Connecticut, with the secretary of the state having the authority to direct and approve of its use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## **§§ 19 & 20 — VICTIM SERVICES**

*Expands the circumstances under which crime victims may be compensated for emotional harm; allows the chief court administrator to designate someone to set (1) policies and procedures to implement victim services and (2) standards to uniformly pay claims*

The bill makes two changes to victim services-related laws.

First, it expands the circumstances under which certain crime victims may be compensated for personal injury, including emotional harm. Under current law, eligible "emotional harm" is a mental or emotional impairment directly attributable to a threat of physical injury or death. The bill broadens it to also include mental or emotional impairment caused by intentional or knowing actions that would make a reasonable person fear for their safety. By law, compensation for emotional harm is limited to medical and mental health care and security measures, generally capped at \$5,000.

Second, current law requires the chief court administrator to prescribe any necessary policies and procedures to implement victim services and allows her to formulate standards for uniformly paying compensation claims. The bill allows her to designate someone to do these tasks.

## **§ 21 — SUPPORT ORDERS**

*Specifies that a support order ends and the parties to it are jointly liable for ongoing family expenses if the parties marry*

The bill specifies that in cases where the parties to a preexisting child support order marry each other, the marriage ends the order, and they are jointly liable for ongoing family support, as existing law requires of

all spouses to support their family. This codifies existing practice.

### **§§ 22 & 23 — LAW LIBRARY REGULATIONS REPEAL**

*Repeals obsolete regulations for state law libraries*

The bill (1) repeals obsolete regulations for state law libraries and (2) requires the secretary of the state to update the official compilation of state agency regulations on the eRegulations System by October 1, 2026, to reflect the repeal.

These regulations set minimum standards for the state law libraries three-tier system, which PA 90-234 eliminated. That act instead requires the Connecticut Supreme Court to adopt policies and procedures for maintaining the state's law library system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§§ 24 & 25 — ARBITRATOR QUALIFICATIONS**

*Requires arbitrators to be Connecticut-licensed attorneys in good standing, unless waived by the parties in writing*

When an arbitration agreement includes the method for selecting an arbitrator for a proceeding in this state, the bill requires the selected person to be a Connecticut-licensed attorney in good standing at the time of appointment and throughout the proceeding. The parties to the agreement may waive this requirement but must do so in writing.

If a party to the arbitration believes the appointed arbitrator does not meet this requirement, the bill limits how long they have to object to it to within 14 days after the appointment is made. It also allows a party to a proceeding pending on July 1, 2026, to file a written objection to the arbitrator's continued service as long as an evidentiary hearing has not begun. The Superior Court has the authority to determine whether a successor arbitrator should be appointed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

### **§§ 26 & 27 — ELECTRONIC NOTICE TO BAIL BOND AGENTS**

*Allows the court to electronically notify bail bond sureties when it forfeits a bond*

By law, when the court orders a bond forfeited due to an arrestee's

failure to appear in court as required, it must notify the bond's surety, including an insurer, about the forfeiture. The bill allows this notice to be sent electronically, instead of only in writing, and makes conforming changes to the law requiring the return of certain collateral security or other indemnity after a bond terminates.

## **§ 28 — BOATING FINE REMITTANCE TO LAKE AUTHORITIES**

*Requires the state to remit all fines issued by lake authorities for boating law violations to the authority that issued the fine*

The bill effectuates existing law's requirement that lake authorities receive revenue from the fines they issue for violations of state boating laws. Under existing law, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must establish a schedule of retention fees that the authorities may keep. (DEEP's retention schedule for these fees has 100% of the boating fines being remitted to the issuing lake authorities.)

Specifically, the bill requires the state to remit the fines collected from boating law violators to the lake authority that issued the fine. The Superior Court clerk or the chief court administrator (or an official she designates) must certify to the comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter to each lake authority served by the clerk or official. The certifications must be made annually by the 30th day of January, April, July, and October.

## **§ 29 — JUDICIAL MARSHAL APPLICANT SUITABILITY**

*Requires the judicial branch to determine the suitability of a judicial marshal applicant*

Under existing law, the chief court administrator must require anyone seeking employment as a judicial marshal to have a criminal background check done by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the FBI. The bill makes the judicial branch responsible for determining the applicant's suitability for employment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)